



**Northern Rockies Regional Office**  
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**FIELD  
NOTES**  
NORTHERN ROCKIES



## Northern Rockies 2021 Year-in-Review

**T**hose of us who choose to call the Northern Rockies home tend to celebrate our independence, our self-sufficiency, and our untamed streak of individualism. Yet every time we walk out the front door, we're confronted by one wild and inescapable fact: there are no truly independent organisms. Throughout the region and across this entire Earth, nothing alive exists in isolation.

We live in partnership—with wild nature, with the biome in our bellies, with our neighbors near and far. Survival requires community.

We connect, conspire, and cooperate—or we perish. This incalculable Western land, ultimately, is the great equalizer for all us individualists living here. Rich or poor, urban or rural, we each must bundle against the same winter winds, must contend with wildfire and wildlife, with burly black bears breaking limbs from autumn apple trees. →

*continued*

The wildlands and our national parks are our shared touchstones in this region, the overpowering reason we all choose to live here. And although we might not agree on much else, we sure as heck can agree that we love this place deeply, fiercely, and for essentially the same reasons.

Finding the common ground is the foundation of our work at NPCA. Up around Glacier, we partner with timbermen to protect both wildlife and jobs; we cooperate with tribes to safeguard both our natural and cultural heritage; and we collaborate with small towns to both welcome tourists and to maintain our community character.

Down at Grand Teton National Park, we join forces with wildlife biologists, elected officials and community members to protect the Path of the Pronghorn, crafting agreements that protect antelope migrations across many miles of public and private land from southwest Wyoming to Grand Teton National Park. And we've built on those relationships to connect far-ranging habitats for mule deer and sage grouse and bighorn sheep – because Nature's a nomad, and she needs room to roam.

Around Yellowstone, we've joined community leaders, government agencies and private landowners to identify options for wildlife-friendly crossings over and under busy highways, ensuring that both critters and car owners are kept safe. Thanks to the diversity and power of that partnership, we're on the short-list

for funding in America's latest infrastructure bill (which, thanks in part to NPCA's work, includes \$350 million for wildlife crossing structures on our nation's highways).

NPCA also is connecting with Indigenous partners to commemorate Yellowstone's upcoming 150th anniversary. We are engaging together on our common ground, finding new ways to tell old stories that will inform and drive tomorrow's vision for the next 150 years at Yellowstone.

And between the parks, in those vast stretches of working lands, NPCA is collaborating with landowners to provide the volunteers, the dollars, and the materials that folks need to modify their fences in ways that allow wildlife to move and migrate.

We're doing this work because nothing alive—not a person nor a place nor a park—exists in isolation. All of us live in relation to the rest of life. That's not to say these relationships are easy. But when we take the time to get it right, it can last lifetimes. Partnerships and their impacts have a funny way of outliving the partners.

The wild Rockies are the place we've chosen to stake our collective future. We live here, together, and only by continuing to work together can we shape a future that has room for all of us to thrive. As part of the NPCA community, we are grateful for all you do to support a better future for our parks, our lands and all the two-legged, four-legged, furred, finned and feathered critters who call the Northern Rockies home.

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# NPCA's work in the Northern Rockies in 2021



1

Established the world's most protective water quality standard for selenium, ensuring healthy fisheries and drinking water for communities along the border between Montana and British Columbia.

5

Finalized a 7-year, zero-waste program at Grand Teton National Park, recycling and composting nearly 4.5 million pounds of visitor garbage that otherwise would have overwhelmed local landfills.

2

Completed a visionary plan for the small gateway community of West Glacier, in partnership with locals and land developers, ensuring that town can preserve what makes it special in the face of unprecedented visitation.

6

Secured a resolution from the city and county governments around Jackson Hole, requesting a ban on disruptive helicopter tours over Grand Teton National Park.

3

Defeated a commercial lodging proposal that was the first step in a plan that would ring Glacier National Park and the Bob Marshall Wilderness with vacation cabins.

7

In partnership with a Tribal-led group that includes dozens of Indigenous leaders, drafted recommendations for bison management in the Greater Yellowstone Ecosystem (GYE).

4

Executed a university research project into visitor use on Glacier Park's famed Going-to-the-Sun-Road that will inform NPS's decisions about visitation in the park for years to come.

8

Created a new cost-share program for ranchers in the GYE, helping them to modernize their operations with wildlife-friendly fences.

# BY THE NUMBERS

**105** The number of years before Glacier National Park notched its 100-millionth visitor. The next 100 million mark will likely hit in fewer than 30 years. NPCA is working alongside park managers and community leaders to ensure that park resources and visitor experiences are protected in light of this unprecedented surge in travelers.



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The number of acres on the Granger Ranch, in the Madison Valley of Montana, where Jeff Laszlo's family has been ranching for 85 years. On those acres, he has documented 200 plant species, more than 130 bird species, 11 mammal species and, of course, his 400 cow/calf pairs. On the Granger Ranch, we've helped modify four miles of fencing to allow pronghorn, moose, elk and deer to migrate between Yellowstone National Park and surrounding seasonal habitats.



**14,000**

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**21** The number of Native American Tribes with historic connections to the lands and resources now known as Yellowstone National Park. As the 150th anniversary of park's establishment approaches, NPCA is working to honor these Tribes' ongoing cultural connection to the land.



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**205** The number of miles you'd have to hike, climb and float to circumnavigate Glacier National Park's border. NPCA works beyond that wild boundary to ensure that Glacier's wild nature and wildlife remain connected to the broader Crown of the Continent ecosystem.



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**4** The number of cubs birthed in 2020 by the iconic grizzly bear mama known locally around Grand Teton National Park as "399." She is 21 years old, which makes her a gray-haired matriarch in grizzly years. NPCA is working to link the grizzlies of Grand Teton and Yellowstone with the grizzlies of Glacier Park and the Canadian Rockies to ensure a long and productive life for the entire species.